What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

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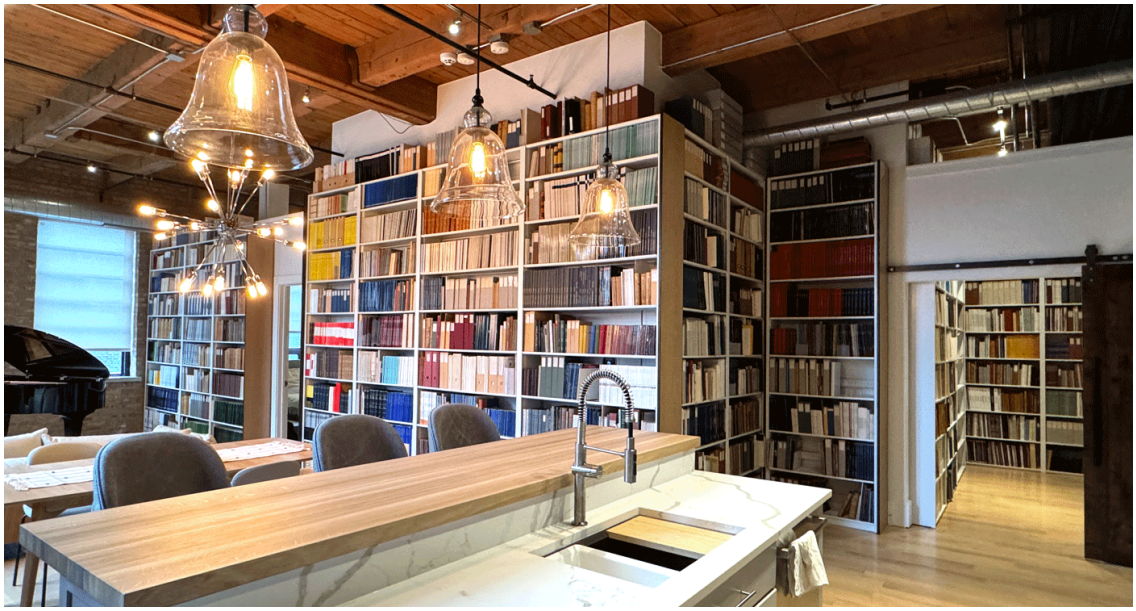
SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #211:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone!

I can't believe that we are inching toward the Spring auction season. There are a lot of auctions coming up both live and electronic. I'll try to focus on the ones that make the most sense for my customers. The biggest achievement for me in the last few months was getting the BCD auction catalogs all on the shelves. It was no small feat and I feel compelled to thank a number of people who helped. The most important is my husband, Rainer, who helped to measure, design and coordinate construction of the bookshelves that house nearly 800 linear feet of catalogs. Next is Tyler Rossi, my dedicated and hardworking assistant, who unpacked hundreds of boxes, sometimes all on his own and put them up on the shelves in the correct order. Finally, my sons Jakob and Leo, who during their holiday break from studying, broke down those boxes and brought them out to the trash. It was a big affair but finally the library is starting to look like.....well, a library!



What's new at the ANS

There are some major changes happening at the ANS right now so I wanted to let you know in case you weren't aware. Executive director Dr. Gilles Bransbourg will step down in order take an eight-month fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, where he will be working on his book, Roman Imperial Economics. In the interim, Dr. Ute Wartenberg Kagan, President of the ANS and former ED, will take over duties as ED, bridging the gap at this crucial time. The ANS is currently looking for a new home, possibly even a city change, so having sound leadership is essential. For those of you that are not members of the ANS, please consider it. It is probably one of the best ways to become immersed in all areas numismatics and learn from some of the brightest scholars. The Friday Long Table series, which started during the pandemic is a fantastic way to hear from museum staff, scholars and researchers from around the globe. Here is a link to their site if you want to check it out.

Scanning project - Newman Numismatic Portal and S&S Library

I want to remind all my subscribers that there will be an excellent new opportunity for you to access numismatic literature for free. The Newman Portal (NNP) and S&S Library entered into a cooperation recently of historic proportions! We are scanning the entire S&S Library, currently close to 9,000 volumes and still growing, and making anything out of copyright available for public consumption. This will be transformative for the NNP as there will now be much more available on ancient coins than ever before. We aren't quite ready yet to give detailed information to you but be on the lookout for that. It will be a great way to access numismatic literature with a click of a button.

Selling your Collection to SSNI or Consigning to NAC Zürich

Do you have a collection that you want to sell or alternatively put in public auction? I can offer both alternatives. For those interested you can either contact me directly by phone or email me. The process is relatively simple and can be catered to your preferences. Sometimes customers want to just do an outright sale to SSNI. Alternatively, consignment is a better option for some and as the U.S. counterpart for NAC, I can help to coordinate the process so there is no need to deal with international issues that may arise. NAC is currently one of the most respected auction houses for ancient coins. They continually achieve the highest hammers compared to any other auction house. Please do get in touch if I can be of service. If you want to learn more about both options then you can visit either the NAC USA website or SSNI.

Now for some auction news:

Gorny & Mosch Auction 302/303 (4-5 March 2024)

I realize that this is right upon us but the G&M auction is coming up in a few days. Hopefully you read this newsletter before it happens. Auction 302 is composed of 631 lots. The sale does not have a dedicated collection for sale but there are several interesting pieces. A few highlights include a number of Celtic imitations like lot 25 which is a tetradrachm from the Donau region and is a stylized Celtic version of a Philip II tetradrachm from Macedonia. Lot 55 is a "budget" tetradrachm from Akragas. This

with a pedigree back to 1991. The cover coin, lot 77, is a very attractive tetradrachm from the 2nd Republic of Syracuse. The reverse of Arethusa is serene and beautiful. Lot 124 is a sharply struck tetradrachm of Perseus. Lot 159 is a highly coveted drachm from Knossos with the labyrinth reverse. It comes from the Lockett collection auction in 1959 through Glendining's. Lot 200 is an exceedingly rare type, the Kos, triple siglos, with a discus thrower. It is a fascinating piece. Lot 249 is another piece that is rarely seen, a prutah from Judaea with a menorah on the reverse. Lot 303 is an unusually sharp portrait of Cleopatra VII. Lot 373 is a billon tetradrachm of Gordian I, which is one of only five specimans in private hands. Lot 407 is a sharp and complete sestertius of Augustus. Lot 416 is a nicely pedigreed (back to 1929) of Nero and his wife Agrippina in happier times. Lot 421 is a sharply struck and scarcer denarius of Vitellius.

Auction 303 is world coins with an emphasis on Germany. Lot 1105 is gorgeous gold medal of Georg Wilhelm from 1690. It has a pedigree from a Leo Hamburger auction from 1905. Lot 1122 is a silver medal of Friedrich Kasimir from 1658 with a unveiling of the lutheran church in Hanau. It has a pedigree from a 1974 Peus sale. Lot 1139 is a toned 1759 medal from Vienna. It has the four siblings on the obverse. Lot 1164 is a fantastic type from Sachsen. A large guldengroschen of Friedrich III and Johann from 1507/1512. Towards the end of the catalog, lots 1434-1438 are silver bars from Lithuania during the 1200-1400 time period. This was a period with no coinage circulating. Finally, lot 1511 is a breathtaking Birr from 1900 of the King of Ethiopa, Menelik II (1889-1913).

I am available for auction representation should anyone need it. Please reach out soon!

Künker Spring Bonanza! Auction 402-407 (14-26 March 2024)

I love my friends at Künker....they know I do but do they want to break my back! There are 6 large beautiful catalogs of their Spring sale. This was just on the heels of their Berlin sales. These folks are rocking it when it comes to auctions. I couldn't possibly give an overview of every auction so I'll focus on the one that is most likely to get the attention from readers of this newsletter, auction 402. This has ancient coins with the first part focussing on the phenomenal collection from Dr. Kaya Sayar. Dr. Sayar is very much alive, and just recently turned 91 years old. His bio is detailed at the beginning of the catalog in German and English. He started collecting later in life but was smart and focussed his efforts in areas that "spoke" to him, specifically those from his homeland of Turkey. The first part of his collection, coins of Lycia, Pamphylia and Cilicia are in auction 402. There are 512 coins from his collection. The coins from Lycia are extremely interesting and many are plate coins from the Wilhelm Müseler (previously with Peus) book on Lycian coinage. I remember seeing Wilhelm bid frequently in auctions in the last 20 years, sometimes extremely strong. Now I know who he was bidding for! Unfortunately Wilhelm died last year much earlier than he should have. You will also see a lot of Hans Von Aulock coins in the collection as he was another avid buyer of the type and Dr. Sayar sought out his coins. The remainder of the catalog (roughly half) are coins from other properties. Some steller pieces can be found with great pedigrees.

The remaining catalogs are as follows: Auction 403 is coins and medals of the Popes. This catalog of 610 lots was carefully assembled and for those that are interested in Papal coinage it will be very important.

Auction 404 is the collection of coins and medals from the Mainz. This is the second part of the Prof. Dr. Eckhart Pick. There are 676 coins in this collection. Another very focussed collection.

Auction 405 are the coins of the diocese and the imperial city of Regensburg. There are

Auction 406 is the largest and has coins and medals from the Middle Ages and modern times, including Löwenstein-Wertheim. German coins from 1871, including test mintings from the Coenen collection. The catalog has a whopping 1,811 lots.

The last auction, 407, is a strictly electronic sale of 612 lots and is dedicated to coinage from the Austrian king, Franz Josef.

I am available for auction representation for any of the Künker sales.

Davissons Ltd. Auction 43 (20 March 2024)

Davissons is conducting their 43rd auction with 356 lots. For those unfamiliar with Davissons, they are a family owned outfit out of Minnesota. They have several sales throughout the year that function as a normal electronic auction but they charge no buyer's premium. I've always enjoyed their auctions that often have some wonderful British hammered and condor tokens, along with ancient and modern coinages. They are featuring 43 coins from the Leland Scott Collection which focuses primarily on coinage from Scotland, although there are some ancient coins as part of the group. Two of the more impressive lots from the group are lot 20, an extremely rare 80 shillings of James VI (1567-1625). This was purchased in 1949 from Sotheby's. The other is lot 237, a silver testoon of Mary Stuart. This exceedingly rare date of 1562, when she was widowed for the first time, is in excellent condition for the type. Also, check out their nice section of British hammered coins. There are some lovely rainbow toned pieces with a few outstanding pedigrees. Please do let me know if you need help with this auction.

Coin of the Week

Thrace, Ainos. c. 398/7-397/5 BC
AR Tetradrachm, 14.86g (25mm, 12h).
Head of Hermes facing, wearing petasos / Goat standing r. with AINION above and grape vine r., all within incuse square.

Pedigree: Ex Lockett Collection Part VI, 12 February 1958, lot 1084; ex. Alberto Sangorski Collection, 1925. Ex. Edward P. Warren Collection, published by Kurt Regling in 1906 sold by Sotheby, 2 May 1905, lot 7 (not pictured but weighing the same and with the same description), probably coming from the Canon William Greenwell Collection (1820-1918) (noted in Lockett description)

References: May-348a (dies 215/234, PL. V, this coin)
Grade: Surfaces are a bit rough but well struck and with a superb pedigree

Price: $17,500

gk1829

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One of the westernmost cities in modern day Turkey, the ancient city of Ainos has both historic and mythic roots which stretch back at least to the Trojan war. As to the city's mythic foundations, both Herodotus and Thucydides claimed that Aeneas founded the city shortly after fleeing the destruction of Troy. Later, a slightly more historical encyclopedia produced by 10th century Byzantine scholars called the Suda, described how the city was settled by Greek colonists traveling from the western Thracian city of Alopeconnesus. Despite this connection to Aeneas, and therefore Apollo, the city's emphasis on trade in the 4th century BC dominated its coinage, as demonstrated by the repeated numismatic appearance of Hermes.

One early myth claimed that some local fishermen found an armless statue of the god on the shore of the Hebros river. After not recognizing its importance, they threw it back into the sea. Only to catch it in their nets yet again. The God's statue was then moved to the city and worshiped as the divine image it was. A further connection to Hermes can be found on the reverse of this coin. The goat is known to be a symbolic reference to the God's role as the divine shepherd.

Check out coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

www.shannaschmidt.com

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